Jute mills in the country

1918. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how many jute mills were there in the country upto December, 1997;

(b) how many of these jute-mills are existence till 31st March, 2003;

(c) whether any new jute-mill has been set up during this period;

(d) the reason why these mills are getting sick year to year; and

(e) the steps towards modernisation of this category of mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) There were 73 jute mills in the country upto December, 1997.

(b) There were 78 jute mills in the country as on 31st March, 2003.

(c) During this period three new composite jute mills in Andhra Pradesh and two composite mills in West Bengal have been set up.

(d) Out of 78 jute mills, 37 jute mills are sick at present. It has generally been noticed that certain common factors with regional variations have mainly been responsible for the industrial sickness of these mills. These factors are instability in production of raw jute, high labour cost, demand erosion due to emergence of jute substitute products, obsolete machinery, lack of orientation towards diversification and inadequate infrastructural facilities.

(e) The Government has taken several steps for revival and modernisation of sick jute mills. The Ministry of Textiles is implementing two schemes namely, the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme and the Jute Manufacturers Development Council Incentive Scheme for modernisation of jute industry in the country.